

### **Why is TCEQ here?**

TCEQ's main goal in West is to ensure environmental concerns are assessed and taken into consideration as decisions on-scene are being made. Additionally, TCEQ is overseeing contractor operations in regard to the continuing air quality monitoring and material removal activities. TCEQ will continue its efforts in West during the future removal activities and ongoing recovery efforts.

### **Is the air safe?**

Beginning overnight following the West explosion, TCEQ and EPA began and have continued to monitor the air quality in West, Texas. On April 18, 2013, both TCEQ and EPA measured very small amounts of ammonia for brief periods of time in the area immediately surrounding the fertilizer facility. These levels would be odorous, but would not cause adverse health effects.

### **Is the air in the neighborhood safe?**

In addition to air quality monitoring at the fertilizer plant, there has been stationary and mobile monitoring in the neighborhood adjacent to the facility. Ammonia levels measurements moving out from the fertilizer facility into the neighborhood were much lower to not detectable. Since April 19th, neither the TCEQ nor EPA has monitored anything of note near the facility or in the surrounding neighborhood.

### **What about the dust that may have settled on belongings?**

There is no reason to suspect that this dust would be a health concern based on the air quality monitoring to date.

### **Can Ammonia hurt me? What are the risks?**

Exposure to high levels of ammonia can cause eye, nose, and respiratory tract irritation. You can smell ammonia at levels much lower than those that can cause adverse health effects. Air quality measurements indicate either non-detectable levels for ammonia or very low levels that do not cause adverse health effects.

### **Am I at risk for long term health effects?**

No. Since the beginning of air quality measurements the night of the explosion, there have been no findings that would indicate a potential for long term health effects.

**[West Incident - TCEQ Staff Information:  
Responses to Questions During  
Repatriation]**

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April 27, 2013

**Is my drinking water safe?**

There has been a boil water notice in effect since the beginning of the event. For current conditions and repair activities of water lines, please contact your water provider directly.

**When will gas service be returned?**

Please contact your local provider of gas service directly for that information.